

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Stephen W. Boyd et al.
Serial No. : TBD
Filed : October 18, 2001
Title : DEVICES AND METHODS FOR PORT-ACCESS MULTIVESSEL
CORONARY ARTERY BYPASS SURGERY

Art Unit : 3738
Examiner : D. Isabella

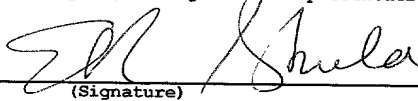
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the
United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed
to: Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on

October 18, 2001

(Date of Deposit)

E. Richard Skula

(Name of applicant, assignee, or Registered Representative)


(Signature)

October 18, 2001

(Date of Signature)

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

This is a Preliminary Amendment for the Divisional Patent Application filed on
eventdate herewith which is a Divisional of prior pending application Serial No. 09/487,024 filed
on January 19, 2000. Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

In the Claims:

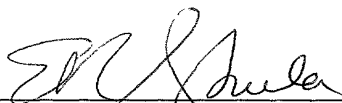
Please cancel without prejudice Claims 45-54 and 96-181.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This is a Preliminary Amendment for the above-identified Divisional Patent Application filed on eventdate herewith which is a Division of commonly assigned, copending patent application Serial No. 09/487,024. Applicants have canceled without prejudice claims 45-54 and 96-181. Remaining claims 1-44 correspond to the Examiner's Group I contained in the Restriction Requirement in the parent application.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen W. Boyd et al.

By: 
E. Richard Skula
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 31,061

Johnson & Johnson
One Johnson & Johnson Plaza
New Brunswick, NJ 08933
(732) 524-2718
Date: October 18, 2001